

COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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President's Message

New Rules

Minister Whiteside and Dr. Bonnie Henry announced new rules for K-12 public education yesterday. The general changes that affect most teachers are the new mask requirements for all K-12 teachers and students at middle and high school. All K-12 staff are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) in schools both within and outside of their learning group. Masks are required for staff and middle and secondary students except when: sitting in (or standing at) their seat/workstation in a classroom or learning space, there is a barrier in place, eating and drinking; and outdoors. The other changes are a continued recommendation to perform high energy PE outside where possible but a new requirement is made for teachers to do lower energy activities indoors when this isn't possible and wear masks and socially distance while doing that. Music is also affected in that masks must be worn while singing, musical instruments can't be shared unless cleaned between uses and social distancing is encouraged in all music settings. Now, there are more holes in these than needlepoint.

While the CTA has been encouraging a universal mask mandate since the beginning this is only incremental change. Teachers at elementary will likely feel that the risks of their situation aren't diminished at all by these new recommendations. Similarly, districts with K-7 elementary school may feel this is unfair because situations that are determined to need a greater response in a district with a middle school doesn't need that response there, even though the populations are the same. We will certainly take any incremental change in the direction of greater safety but, we still feel there is more to be done and rational and coherent responses are needed.

Covid Leave

BCPSEA, out of the blue, this week announced a COVID leave for teachers directed to go into isolation by health authorities. This has been something the BCTF and the local have been seeking for a year. This means teachers would not have to burn up sick days for required quarantine. We have quarantine language in our Collective Agreement and we are grateful that it exists, as some locals don't have this language at all. This is a good thing but, it needs to be made operational by the school district and the CTA is working with them on that, right now. This leave took effect as of February 1, 2021 on a go forward basis and only applies in situations where a teacher is asymptomatic and is required to quarantine.



Leave Applications Go Online

The employer has revised their leave application process to have this take the form of online applications. Communication rolled out yesterday on this. It is definitely a good change to join at least the 20th century on these things if not the 21st. Previously, a teacher would submit a leave application and then have to hope the Principal did their bit on approval and this led to problems before that we have had to address with the employer. A solid, online application that instantly goes to everyone that needs it and is trackable for action is a way better system. **Deadlines for Education leaves are due by March 1st 4pm and part-time/full time personal leaves and Job Share Applications are due by March 5th, 4pm.**

In Solidarity

Ken

Are up A new teacher waiting on TRB certification or your TQS category card for pay?

If you have recently graduated from a teacher program, you need to apply to both the Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) for your teacher certification and to the Teacher Qualification Service (TQS) that adjudicates your level of course work to determine your pay category. These are two separate organizations which have their own processes and requirements for documentation. If you are experiencing delays, please follow up with both the TRB and TQS. There is collective agreement language around submission deadlines and communicating to the employer any possible delays in receiving TRB/TQS documentation. You will be placed on the Teachers' Salary Scale at Category 4 with 0 years experience until documentation has been received to warrant an upgraded placement/category and to receive retroactive pay according to Articles B.1.9 and B.12.

Missing any deadlines can result in the loss of pay if not communicated to the employer prior to the deadline.

Article B.1.9.a.iv. "Each employee shall submit all documentation required by the Board to establish salary placement, including category and experience. Such documentation shall be submitted within three (3 months) of commencement of employment, or change in categorization or certification. The employee shall be responsible for advising the Board, in writing, if delays which occur in obtaining the documentation necessitate an extension of the time limits."

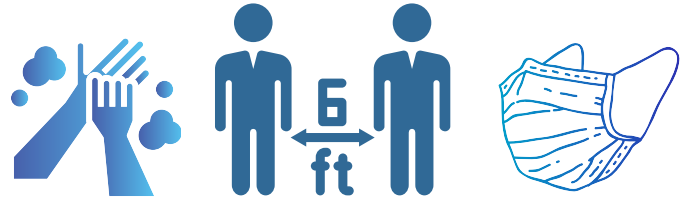
Article B.1.9.a.v. "The Board shall not refuse a request for extension of the time limits if it can be proven that the teacher:

(1) Has provided all documents and/or fees necessary to the Teacher Regulation Branch, if relevant; and (2) Provides written proof, within one (1) month of the deadline, that the delay in obtaining a transcript, a certificate or category card has been caused by a university, a Ministry of Education, Teacher Regulation Branch, the Teachers' Qualification Service, other relevant institution, or circumstances beyond the control of the teacher."

Please email Nadine Tambellini:

ntambellini@sd43.bc.ca with any notice of delays with written proof at least a month before the deadline. You can also contact the CTA if you have further questions.

COVID SAFETY PLAN REVIEWS



The recent updates to the Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings encourage the meeting of site Joint Health and Safety Committees to review and address areas where there may be identified gaps in implementation. The BCDCC has developed a COVID-19 School Health & Safety Checklist:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/schools/school-staff> that can help support these safety plan reviews.

School medical officers have recommended key areas of focus for schools based on reviews of school exposures to date:

1. Prevent crowding and gathering; pay particular attention to the start and end of the day, and stagger recess, lunch and transition times for students and staff whenever possible
2. Avoid close face-to-face contact whenever possible
3. Assign staff to a specific learning group whenever possible
4. Ensure that the use of masks does not reduce or replace practicing physical distancing between learning groups and other prevention measures, for both students and staff
5. Ensure prevention measures are in place in staff only areas, including break and meeting rooms
6. Use the British Columbia Music Educators' Association and the Coalition for Music Education in British Columbia Guidance for music classes
7. High intensity physical activity should occur outside whenever possible. For low intensity exercise activities, middle and secondary students are required to wear masks when they are indoors, unable to maintain physical distancing (2m), and a barrier is not present.

PD POWER

Registration for the February 26, 2021 Resilience & Renewal PD Day starts today! You should receive an email in your district mail with a link to register on Cvent. Please take some time to review the Workshop Booklet (available on the CTA website) before you register so that you don't time out of the process. Once you have made your selections, please make sure that you click the final submit button – you aren't finished until you see a Confirmation number! You will then receive a confirmation email – please make sure you check in your quarantined messages and release it to your inbox if it is there. For the 26th you will need to choose an A (Keynote) session as well as either a B and C OR a D session. Also, make sure that you have connected with colleagues to plan something for your end of day Collaboration time.



Retiring Soon?

Visit <https://bcrt.ca/workshop/> to sign up for an online workshop from the BC Retired Teachers' Association or <https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/online-courses-and-webinars> for Pension specific workshops.

Committee for Action on Social Justice (CASJ)

CASJ committee meeting (3rd Thurs of each month):

Thur, Feb 18, 2021 3:45 pm via Teams

Following up on last meeting's discussion, we will be considering options regarding work on a CTA anti-racism policy. We also are looking to build on the success of our first book club series. New members welcome!

CASJ book club (2nd and 4th Thurs of each month):

Thur, Feb 11th at 4pm via Teams

We will be starting the next series of our book club. If you're interested in joining us, you're welcome to participate in the poll that will help to determine our next book (see graphic on next page). We'll discuss results of the poll, choose a new book, and set the first reading goal at the next meeting.

New members welcome!

For more info please contact committee chair Karen Learmonth klearmonth@sd43.bc.ca or Diether Malakoff dmalakoff@cta43.org with any questions.

#BBYCOQPD2021
#RESILIENCE&RENEWAL

PD Day Registration is OPEN!

<https://cvent.me/ZQA4Pa>

February 26, 2021

FSA TESTING DATES DELAYED

As you know despite the pandemic, the FSAs will proceed this year. Friday, the government confirmed online that they have been postponed again. **They will now run from February 15 to March 12, 2021.**

You are able to distribute information on FSA testing to parents but should do so following the BCTF/BCPSEA protocol.

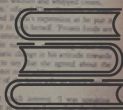
Here is what you do:

- Inform your administrator that you plan to send/hand out the pamphlets.
- Use the two BCTF/CTA pamphlets.
- Distribute these pamphlets directly to parents, or if sending pamphlets home via students, all pamphlets must be in sealed envelopes clearly identifying that they are produced and distributed by the CTA.

The CTA Office will supply the materials – please call or email Kelly S. @ kstewart@cta43.org

join the CASJ BOOK CLUB

HELP US PICK OUR NEXT BOOK CLUB READ



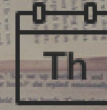
WHICH BOOK?

Click [HERE](#) to
vote on our next
book



WHERE?

On Teams. Use
the following
code to join:
qr66lkm



WHEN?

2nd and 4th
Thursdays of the
month at 4pm



PINK SHIRT DAY

February 24th, 2021



Every year, Canadians are invited to take part in the festivities and events that honour the legacy of black Canadians, past and present, during Black History Month.

Celebrate the many achievements and contributions of black Canadians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation we know today. Visit the [BCTF Black History Month Fact and Resources](#) page for more information.



Moments of Joy

Let's get back to celebrating the moments that make us smile, laugh, and enjoy our days - send Moments of Joy to mcrawford@cta43.org and they might be shared in our next newsletter!

A smile with your coffee goes a long way – a community recognizes that and is giving thanks for it by fundraising to help a 28 year old go back to school
https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2021/01/07/tim-hortons-employee-gives-out-free-smiles-and-gets-21000-in-return.html?utm_source=&utm_medium=TheGoods&utm_campaign=GTA&utm_content=timhortons-21000

It's cookie monster...in a rock?
<https://globalnews.ca/news/7599658/cookie-monster-rock-face-geode/>

Giant Pandas Mei Xiang and Tian Tian had a ton of fun on a snow day in Washington DC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vj9ra-lHtxg>

Sometimes, it's the little things that make us smile...like putting eyes on the cat's bed: <https://digg.com/2021/cat-bed-eyes>

TTOC COVID HARDSHIP FUND

A motion was passed through the September 30, 2020 CTA Representative Assembly : That the CTA Executive Committee establish a TTOC COVID Emergency Hardship Fund for the 2020-2021 school year to support TTOCs, prioritizing those who have not benefited from CERB or EI.

The grocery gift cards are \$50 President's Choice cards, the application form can be found on the [CTA website](#) member resources/covid page (at the bottom of the page) on a first-come first-serve basis. Once you have filled out the application it should be emailed to Heidi at hdavis@cta43.org.

TTOC Committee

TTOC Townhall (first Tuesday of each month)

Next Townhall will be [Tue Mar 2 @3:45pm](#) on zoom

TTOC Committee Meeting (second Tues. of the month)

Next meeting will be [Tue Feb 9 @3:45pm](#) on zoom

All meeting links and additional information will be posted in the CTA TTOC facebook group. If you're not on facebook and would like to attend, please contact committee chair Morgan McKee (chair.ttoc@gmail.com) or Diether Malakoff (dmalakoff@cta43.org).

RAC (Real Acts of Caring) Week February 14 - 20, 2021

RAC is doing something caring and kind for another and not expecting anything back. Below are links for RAC related activities, many of which are COVID safe. RAC posters will be sent to your school shortly. RAC Leadership students are encouraging students to wear purple t-shirts during RAC Week to spread awareness (due to Covid restriction measures, we are unable to sell RAC t-shirts this year).

Here are some websites with caring and kindness ideas which are Covid safe:

<https://ripplekindness.org/11-covid-safe-acts-of-kindness-to-make-a-difference-on-world-kindness-day/>

<https://schoolofkindness.org/resources-for-schools/self-isolation-little-kindness-lessons-and-activities>

<https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>

RAC Week does not need to be a one-time event! If you are looking for a positive leadership program for your school, you may wish to organize a RAC Club to enable students to participate in caring and kindness events throughout the year. Please contact Harriette Chang if you have any questions. Have fun!



How EFAP Can Help

Information to help with work and life

Confidential · Immediate Assistance · 24/7/365

Morneau Shepell · 1-844-880-9142

workhealthlife.com

CTA Website Login

Information is posted on our website as quickly as we have it. Please make sure you are able to access the site. If you have any questions about login please contact

Kelly Stewart kstewart@cta43.org

Questions about your pension?

Go straight to the source for answers.

<https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/pension-basics>

Online workshops and learning

<https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/learning-resources>

Retirement Health Coverage

<https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/retirement-health-coverage>

Committee Vacancies

District Student Services Advisory Committee

- 2 CTA reps

District Student Achievement Advisory Committee

- 4 CTA reps

District Student Wellness & Safety Committee

- Currently Full

District Aboriginal Ed Advisory Committee

- Currently Full

District French Advisory Committee

- Currently Full

CTA PD Committee

- 2 Middle Reps,

1 Adult Ed Rep, 2 Elementary Reps

CTA Teachers Teaching on Call Committee

- 5 members-at-large

CTA Committee of Action on Social Justice (CASJ)

- 2 Middle reps, 2 Elementary reps,

- 1 member-at-large

New Westminster & District Labour Council

- 5 CTA reps

Teachers interested in any of these committees should go onto our website or click here for a curriculum vitae form and submit it to the CTA Office (padolf@cta43.org). If you have questions, call the CTA Office at **604-936-9971**.

Contact Us:

Please see the list below for the officer or staff member best able to help you.

(Last names A-F) Ken Christensen, President

kchristensen@cta43.org

(Last names G-L) Kara Obojski, 1st Vice-President

kobojski@cta43.org

(Last names M-R) Diether Malakoff, 2nd Vice-President

dmalakoff@cta43.org

(Last names S-Z) Andy Gilligan, Labour Relations Officer

agilligan@cta43.org

PD related questions

Meggan Crawford, PD Chairperson - mcrawford@cta43.org

CTA Administration

(anything not covered by anyone in the list below)

Kelly Roberts, Executive Director - kroberts@cta43.org

Accounting/Finance

Reimbursements, scholarship payment) & CTA newsletter

Heidi Davis, Finance Administrator - hdavis@cta43.org

Scholarships, Committees, CTA PD Day

Pat Adolf, Administrative Associate - padolf@cta43.org

Membership info & website access

Kelly Stewart, Office Clerk - kstewart@cta43.org

If your situation is already being handled by an officer not matching your alpha assignment, then please continue to liaise with that officer.

www.coquitlamteachers.com

CTA Office: 604-936-9971

